**USES OF VARIABLES1**

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| Example | What is it  usually called | What the variables  stand for |
| C = | Formula | C and *d* are concrete quantities.  is a constant. |
| 5*x* = 30;  7+ *x* = 24 | Equation | *x* is the unknown. |
| 1 = *n* (1/*n*) | Property | *n* is a symbol to represent a generalization. |
| *y* = *kx* | An equation of a function  of direct variation. | *x* is the independent variable,  *y* is the dependent variable,  and *k* is a constant. |

1Table adapted from Bassarear, T. (2008). Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers. Houghton Mifflin: Boston.